APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 568 asked by Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1936, page 52 supra.]

Note.

It may be said that, at the start, there was practically no information about the millets on which research could proceed; but this knowledge is being rapidly acquired. The millets are typically crops of dry land and are exposed to all the vicissitudes of season that that implies; so that bad weather may occasionally nullify a whole year's work. Even so, it takes normally from seven to ten years of research on any crop before definite economic results can be expected. The following results have nevertheless been achieved.

2. (*a*) Of ragi (Eleusine coracana) the superior strain E.C. 593 has been evolved, which has been disseminated widely in the Deccan and Central districts, and south to Coimbatore. Its superiority is estimated at 20 per cent and the cash value of that increase at Rs. 2-8-0 an acre at least. A white grained ragi supplied by the Millet Specialist, is being tested for nutritional value.

(*b*) A particular strain of cholam (Sorghum vulgare), N. 28/3, has for three years given an increased yield on the average of 28 per cent over local varieties in Kurnool; this is being distributed. A white irrigated variety, A.S. 367, is spreading in Chittoor, and a strain recently evolved, A.S. 2095, is being distributed in the neighbourhood of Kovilpatti, in Chittoor and in Vellore. A white chitrai cholam, A.S. 1575, is beginning to spread in Coimbatore; a red strain, A.S. 841, has just been given out in Salem. For all of these improved strains a 10 per cent increase over the local varieties can be claimed. Two strains of Peria Manjal cholam, useful both for grain and for fodder, A.S. 29 and 1098, have been evolved; and some 6,500 lb. of seed have so far been distributed. More than fifty varieties have been tested for their suitability for malting; of which two, found satisfactory, have been multiplied and will be tried out on a large scale.

(*c*) A good strain of korra (Setaria Italica), S.I. 523, has just been distributed in Salem and Coimbatore; more than 200 lb. of seed has been distributed so far.

(*d*) A variety of cumbu (Pennisetum typhoideum) M.S.P.T. 2229, has proved successful, and is being multiplied for distribution.

3. Most of the millets are intensely local in their evolution and distribution, and for this reason assistants trained in the breeding of millets have been stationed at Nandyal, Guntur and Kovilpatti, to help the circle officers in the solution of local problems. A superintendent and two assistants similarly trained have been posted to the Dry Farming Research Scheme at Hagari.